

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

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DRAFTED BY EUR/SOV:MTDIXON/WEDGAR:BG
APPROVED BY EUR:JAARMITAGE
EUR/SOV - MGARRISON
EB/AN - WRILEY

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P 080154Z DEC 76
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 298010

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAIR, UR, US

SUBJECT: FURTHER SOVIET SOVIET RESTRICTIONS

REF: MOSCOW 18871; MOSCOW 19014

1. EUR/SOV DIRECTOR GARRISON RAISED THE NEW RESTRICTIONS THAT AEROFLOT IMPOSED ON PAN AM TICKETING DURING A MEETING WITH SOVIET MINISTER COUNSELOR VASEV ON DECEMBER 6. VASEV REPLIED THAT THE NEW SOVIET RESTRICTIONS MIMICRED THOSE THAT THE US HAD IMPOSED. GARRISON SAID THAT OUR RESTRICTIONS HAD BEEN DESIGNED TO RESTORE BALANCE FOLLOWING SOVIET TICKETING VIOLATIONS AND POINTED OUT THAT THE TIMING OF THE NEW SOVIET MOVE WAS PARTICULARLY UNFORTUNATE, IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT WE WERE CONSIDERING A RESUMPTION OF NEGOTIATIONS. SPEAKING UNOFFICIALLY, VASEV SAID THAT HE THOUGHT THE SOVIET CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITIES HAD "MOVED TOO FAST" IN RETALIATING AGAINST THE US RESTRICTIONS.

2. FYI. APPARENTLY PAN AM REP MOSCOW OVERREACTED BECAUSE PAN AM NEW YORK HAS ADVISED DEPARTMENT THAT IT HAS NO INTENTION OF SUSPENDING SERVICES AT THIS TIME AND THAT IT
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FULLY EXPECTED THE SOVIET RETALIATORY ACTIONS. PAN AM

DOES FAVOR A REDUCTION OF FREQUENCIES TO ONE PER WEEK. DEPARTMENT DOES NOT BELIEVE FREQUENCY REDUCTION IS APPROPRIATE RESPONSE AT THIS TIME. WHILE THE SECRETARY'S RESPONSE TO GROMYKO MESSAGE AND OTHER LOWER LEVEL DISCUSSIONS WITH SOVIETS DURING PAST SEVERAL WEEKS HAVE MADE IT CLEAR THAT CONTINUED AEROFLOT OPERATION IS DEPENDENT UPON PAN AM'S ABILITY TO CONDUCT BUSINESS EFFECTIVELY IN THE USSR, WE SHOULD ATTEMPT TO AVOID A TOTAL UNRAVELLING OF OUR CIVIL AVIATION RELATIONS.

3. IT WILL BE IMPOSSIBLE TO MEET WITH THE SOVIETS IN DECEMBER BUT WE ARE ACTIVELY CONSIDERING A JANUARY DATE AND HOPE TO RESPOND DEFINITELY TO THE SOVIETS IN THE NEAR FUTURE. DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDS THAT EMBASSY NOT RPT NOT SEEK APPOINTMENT WITH MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION UNTIL WE HAVE HAD OPPORTUNITY TO DECIDE WHEN TALKS MIGHT REALISTICALLY BE CONVENED. END FYI. ROBINSON

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